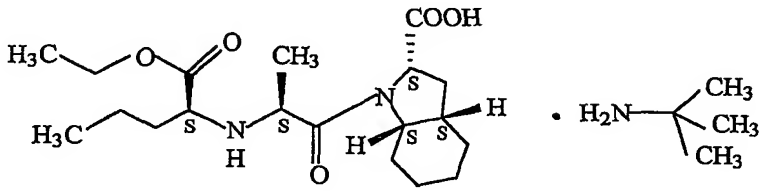
CLAIMS

1. A selective process for preparation of crystalline perindopril erbumine of formula (II),



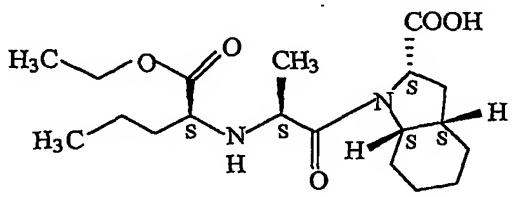
(II)

exhibiting the following X-ray (powder) diffraction pattern,

d-spacing (Å)	*Angle ($^0 2\theta$)*	*Relative Intensity (%)*
10.239	8.628	1.16
8.886	9.945	49.45
7.453	11.863	10.26
6.054	14.618	3.35
5.716	15.487	14.10
5.435	16.294	33.06
5.082	17.434	100.00
4.844	18.296	14.06
4.661	19.023	5.88
4.278	20.744	8.50
4.116	21.570	17.02
3.869	22.965	36.43
3.565	24.950	11.58
3.337	26.690	6.65
3.125	28.531	11.60
2.993	29.823	3.93
2.778	32.194	4.65
2.718	32.918	4.19
2.619	34.196	3.28
2.551	35.140	2.52
2.482	36.151	1.83
2.391	37.578	1.77
2.245	40.129	0.69
2.077	43.534	0.94

comprising,

reaction of a solution of perindopril of formula (I),



(I)

in a solvent selected from N,N-dimethylformamide or dimethyl acetals of lower aliphatic aldehydes and ketones with tertiary butylamine and crystallization of the erbumine salt thus obtained by heating the reaction mixture to reflux, filtering hot, cooling gradually to 20^0C to 30^0C, and further cooling to 0^0 C to 15^0 C for 30 minutes to 1 hour and finally filtering off and drying the crystals.

2. A process according to Claim1, wherein the dimethyl acetals of lower aliphatic aldehydes and ketones is selected from dimethoxymethane, 1,2-dimethoxyethane and 2,2-dimethoxypropane.